

At all stages of development, when disturbed they fall to the ground and assume a characteristic "U" shape.

Jerry Martin's moths did in fact produce countless ova, something that was only apparent when a mass of young larvae emerged in the spring. A few of these he is breeding through, under the "natural" conditions possible, but most of the larvae he released over a wide area. The Heritage Council of Ireland have given him a deserved award for his research work and conservation, no mean achievement for someone still at school.

*O. dumetata* is a very beautiful moth, restricted to one smallish area of the Burren, hence its having remained undiscovered for so long. If visitors to the area treat it (and other local species) with respect, it will survive. It is vital, however, that collecting of larvae should be kept to the absolute minimum. One *dumetata* area is already "collected out", although the Martins are doing their best to restock it. The moth seems to be an almost invariable species, so long series of set insects are a waste of time as well as destructive. It would be extremely sad if carelessness and greed led to the swift extermination of *O. dumetata hibernica* Forder.

***Euproctis similis* Fuess. (Lep.: Lymantriidae) and *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. (Lep.: Geometridae) in October**

A single male specimen of *Euproctis similis* appeared at m.v. light here on each of 1 and 2 October 1997. South (1961. *The Moths of the British Isles*. Warne) mentions that in 1947 there was quite a big second generation.

An *Ourapteryx sambucaria* in excellent condition flew to m.v. light here on 10 October 1997. South (1939. *The Moths of the British Isles*. Warne) remarks that "... sometimes an odd specimen or two will appear in the autumn; one was captured at Gravesend [Kent] on 22 October 1904".

It would be interesting to know whether there have been other similar observations in 1997.—ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, 1 The Street, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

***Aleochara kamila* Likovsky (Col.: Staphylinidae) in Hertfordshire**

In 1969 Dr R. Colin Welch, our authority on this interesting genus, named for me a dissected male taken by the late Philip Harwood at Bishops Stortford (xi.1912) as *A. diversa* Sahib. — a name now replaced by the above on grounds of homonymy. As Dr Welch does not include the present record in his very welcome and thorough revision of the British species of *Aleochara* (1997. *Coleopterist* 6(1): 1-45), where the records known to him of this rare (RDB 3) species are listed (p.38), I think it worth noting the above as new for Hertfordshire. Unfortunately there is no indication of the conditions of capture — Harwood of course would have assumed the beetle to be the common *A. sparsa* Heer — but *A. kamila* appears to have a rather wide habitat-range, like its immediate allies.—A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.